CurlManitoba

GENERAL UMPIRE GUIDE

2026-2027

LTAD STAGES:

Competitive Stream:	**Podium Stream:**
Learn to Compete	Learn to Excel
Train to Compete	Train to Excel
Compete for Life	

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NOTE: A separate document is available for
Supervising Umpire Duties
Head Umpire Duties

CurlManitoba has spent a great deal of time and energy refining their rules and implementing consistency throughout Championship Events.
In curling as in most sports, umpiring is performed by dedicated volunteers without whom the sport could not progress.
This is a guide for Umpires. Reference to the CurlManitoba Rule Book and the Curling Canada Rule Book are a necessity.

ROLE OF THE UMPIRE

In curling, as in most sports, umpiring is performed by dedicated volunteers without whom the sport could not progress.

The role of the Umpire has been established to ensure fair play between two or more teams in any competition. Umpires act as a complement to the game, working with the teams in a fair and neutral manner within the rules of the game, doing measurements and intervening only to make a correction or following a breach of the rules.

Umpires' decisions must be made in fairness and sound judgment relative to the rules in Curling Canada's 'Rules of Curling for Officiated Play' rulebook.

All Umpires must have a thorough knowledge of the rules, their interpretation and implementation. Within the umpiring system, dependent on the assignment, the Umpire should have a sound knowledge of the record sheets, scoreboards, measuring devices, hog lines, statistics and time clocks. Each plays an important part in the smooth running of any competition.

The game is first and foremost for the curlers and the role of the Umpire is secondary.

There will always be some inconsistency, but when officials decide which rules to enforce, they are manipulating the game and creating much more inconsistency. This causes frustrations for players, coaches, and fans and leads to problems with sportsmanship and criticism of officials.

The interpretation of rules cannot be dependent upon the opinion of an individual official or even a group of officials. Coaches, players, and fans deserve to know how the rules will be enforced and should see little variance from game to game.

Consistently enforcing the rules as they are written will lead to events that will be better and more enjoyable for players, coaches, fans – and officials!

UMPIRE'S CODE OF CONDUCT & ETHICS

- Good working relationships between athletes, coaches, team officials, other Umpires, ice technicians, media and site personnel are to be expected.
- Never put yourself in a position, real or perceived, of being partial in any situation. Never become involved in any wager or bet in a competition where you are working as an Umpire.
- CurlManitoba Umpires' jackets are NOT to be worn at any event unless you are working the event. instructed to do so by Curling Canada. Umpires' jackets should not be worn outside the curling
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages during an event should be done in moderation. Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed within eight (8) hours of a game being worked by an Umpire.
- Comments about any aspect of umpiring shall only be discussed among the Umpires in private, not in the presence of other people. Never respond to a question from a player, parent, team official, or media representative concerning a game situation – refer the question to the Chief Umpire.
- All decisions shall be made in accordance with the rules quickly and fairly without being officious. At no time will score, individuals, or biased spectators influence any decisions.
- Umpires should never become more than casually involved socially with any specific team or players for the duration of the competition. While it is fine to speak with and be around the teams socially, Umpires must never be found in a position of spending more time with one team or player than another.
- Umpires who attend an event as a spectator should not expect any special privileges.

FAIR PLAY UMPIRE CODE

The umpire shall strive to ensure that every athlete has the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability.

- The umpire shall strive to maintain a positive atmosphere and safe environment for competition.
- The umpire shall not permit the intimidation of any athlete either by word or by action.
- The umpire shall not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward themselves, other umpires, athletes or spectators.
- The umpire shall handle all conflicts firmly and with dignity.
- The umpire shall accept their role as a teacher and role model for Fair Play.
- The umpire shall be open to discussion and contact with the athletes as required.
- The umpire shall remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.

RULE OF TWO FOR UMPIRES

When a Curling Official is meeting with a minor athlete(s) in a potentially vulnerable situation, the minor athletes' coach must be present. Further, the minor has the option of having an additional adult of their choosing present. Vulnerable situations are any setting where the Curling Official is meeting with the minor athlete(s) and can include closed doors meetings, meeting in locker rooms, meeting in an Umpire or Officials rooms, amongst others. This rule serves to protect minor athletes by ensuring that more than one adult is present in potentially vulnerable situations.

This means that any one-on-one interaction between a Curling Umpire and a minor athlete without a Coach or adult of the minor athletes choosing must take place in a public environment where it is reasonable that the conversation and / or actions can be witnessed by others, with the exception of medical emergencies. Public environments may include the field of play, coach's bench, public viewing areas, shared public washroom facilities, etc.

Examples are as follows:

- A minor athlete may want to meet with a curling official to discuss a situation that occurred on the ice.
- A Curling Official may want to meet with a minor athlete after a curling game to discuss behaviour or any other item.

  Resolution: The Curling Official must insist that the Coach or adult of the minor athletes choosing is also present.
- While a game is in progress the Curling Official may want to talk to a minor athlete about their position on the ice while the opposition is in the process of delivery.
- After the game the Curling Official may want to congratulate the team on their accomplishment of winning the Gold Medal game in the viewing area.

  Resolution: As this is a public environment, this is acceptable.

TIMING

TEAM TIME-OUTS

If a team wants a team time-out, it uses the 'T' hand signal. The Supervising Umpire, Timing Supervisor and Time Clock Operator confirm that a time-out has been called.

- When a time-out is called, the game clock will stop for sixty seconds, and the predetermined amount of travel time. Either the Supervising Umpire will control the time-out on a stopwatch, or the Timer will control the time-out on the game clock.
- If the coach or alternate runs or jogs during the travel time, the travel time may be terminated. Coaches will be notified of this consequence in advance.
- If walkways on all sheets are provided, the coach must stand on the walkway, either beside or behind the sheet. If all sheets do not have walkways, the coach must stand behind the sheet. The Supervising Umpire ensures that the other team is not blocking the coach's view.
- If there are no walkways anywhere to access the away end of the sheets, the coach may walk up the dividing line of the sheet but may only stand behind the back line (can be on the sheet). The coach is to be instructed to remain on the dividing line and not to step into the center of the sheet. Specifics on where the coach may stand can be given at the Team Meeting.
- When there are ten seconds remaining in the time-out, the Supervising Umpire informs the team that ten seconds remain.
- When the time-out expires, the Umpire ensures that the coach ends all discussion with the team and leaves the Field of Play promptly.
- The time-out is recorded on the Game Timing Form (indicating the time remaining and stone color that called the time-out) and the Supervising Umpire Sheet (indicating the team that called the time out, time remaining and stone #).

TIME CLOCK ADJUSTMENTS

If a time clock malfunction or error has been recognized, the time to be given back should be noted, and the necessary adjustments to the clock made between ends, except during the final end when timing adjustments must be made stone by stone.

- Time will only be added where required, but never taken away due to a timing error. The Head Umpire or Supervising Umpire will notify the coaches of the occurrence and of the action taken. The Supervising Umpire will notify the skips of the occurrence and of the action taken.
- If the malfunction occurs during the last scheduled end or an extra end the necessary adjustments to the time clock will be made immediately.
- If a player is allowed to redeliver a stone, the Supervising Umpire will decide if the time clock will run for that team in accordance with Curling Canada Rules for Officiated Play.
- If an end is to be replayed, the game clocks are reset to the time recorded at the completion of the previous end.

TECHNICAL TIME-OUT

The Supervising Umpire notifies the Time Clock Supervisor by radio and starts a stopwatch. The Time Clock Supervisor notifies the Time Clock Operator on the appropriate sheet and ensures the time clock is stopped promptly.

- If the Umpire considers the reason to be valid (e.g., FGZ measure), then it is considered as an Umpire's time-out. The game clock restarts at a point indicated by the Umpire (e.g., when the subsequent stone reaches the tee line at the delivering end, or for wheelchair curling, when the subsequent stone reaches the hog line).
- If the reason is considered not valid, the game clock is restarted immediately.
- The time-out is recorded on the Supervising Umpire Sheet (indicating the team that called the time out, time remaining, stone # and reason for the technical time-out).

MEASURING PROCEDURES

- Determine which stones are to be measured and for what reason (shot stone, second shot stone, etc.).
- Ensure that the teams move all stones not requiring measurement to an out of play position behind the back line.
- All measurements are to be done in a clockwise direction.
- One team member from each team is allowed to observe the measure from behind the Game Umpire, away from the forward path of the measuring device. All other players are to be standing outside the house.
- Rotate device clockwise towards first stone.
- Set device for a small reading. Tighten screws and then back the measuring device away from stone.
- Rotate device clockwise slowly past stone #1, carefully observing final reading announcing the approximate reading and proceed to stone #2, using one hand to push the device outside the stones being measured. Do not put downward pressure on the measuring stick.
- Determine shot stone.
- Stand and point to the shot stone. Make eye contact with the vice-skips and allow them time to agree. Move the non-counting stone away towards the outer edge of the house.

- The teams are entitled to ask for a second measure from the game umpire. If this is the case, move the measuring device in a clockwise rotation to a stone. Repeat the steps to measure the stones.
- If the teams ask for a third measure, contact another umpire for assistance
- Based on the results of the measure, confirm the score with both teams.
- For a three stone measure always measure the odd colour stone first. If possible, measure all three (3) stones before moving any. You will move the stone(s) that are not counting away from the centre.
- For a four-stone measure you will determine which of the four stones is closest to the center, even if this requires a measurement of all stones. You will compare the stone that is closest to the centre to both of the oppositions stones to ensure that it is the closest stone to the centre of all stones. Once this has been determined, this stone is determined to be shot stone and a three-stone measure can be made for a possible second point. To facilitate good communication to anyone that may be watching, you can move the shot stone in towards the centre to make it obvious which of the four is shot. For the remaining three-stone measure move the stones that are not counting away from the centre.

COACH'S BENCH

- Coaches will only be allowed access to the coach bench when their team is playing
- Coaches must be dressed in black dress pants or black curling pants or pants that match the team's uniform to be allowed ice access.
- A warm jacket may be worn but must be removed prior to accessing their team.
- Exception: Jackets do not have to be removed for on ice coaching events
- Persons on the bench must remain seated at all times.
- All cell phones or other communication devices MUST be turned off during the games.
- No verbal, visual or electronic communication is allowed.
- Alcohol in the playing area and on the coaches bench is not allowed.

UMPIRE SELECTION OF EVENTS

Supervising Umpires at Curling Club Events

a. Umpires must have Level 1 training
b. Umpires must have timer training
c. Umpires will learn tasks related to officiating at the event from the Head Umpire

Head Umpires at Curling Club Events

a. Umpires must have worked as a Supervising Umpire at a minimum of 3 curling club events
b. Umpires must show leadership qualities
c. Umpires must understand the operation and responsibility of an event

Supervising Umpires at Arena Events

a. Umpires must have worked as a Head Umpire at a minimum of 3 curling club events

b. Umpires must have a recommendation from a Head Umpire at a curling club event

Head Umpire Arena Events

a. Umpires must have worked at an entire curling club event such as the Masters, Seniors or Mixed as a supervising Umpire and then as a Head Umpire
b. Umpires must have worked as the Head Umpire at a Junior Provincial Championship
c. Umpires must have worked as a Supervising Umpire a minimum of 3 times at an entire Arena Event

NOTE:
Umpires may not work at their home club as a Head Umpire.
The feedback from the Head Umpire will be considered as a tool to determine assignments of Umpires at Curling Club and Arena events.

MEDIA

The media has been given the following information:

1. Report to the Umpire prior to accessing the ice.
2. Wear clean shoes.
3. Wear dark clothing with no advertising.
4. Stay between the hog lines on the side boards or carpeted walkway.
5. Photographers are not allowed on the playing ice surface at any time except during the Closing Ceremonies.
6. All mobile devices are to be on silent.
7. No flash photography is allowed.
8. Interviews are to be conducted only outside of the ice area in front of the media backdrop.
9. Umpires are NOT to be interviewed.
10. The Head Umpire or Coordinator may rescind the credentials of any member of the media who does not follow the guidelines.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Flash photography is not allowed at any time by media or spectators.

BEHAVIOUR POLICY

The Behavioral Policy can be found in the Rule Supplement.
Review the Behavioral Policy for the procedures.

PLAYOFFS

When 2 events are at the same venue 4 sheets of ice will be assigned to each event. The playoffs will be played on the said 4 sheets.

Exception: Masters and Senior Championships

REFER TO THE CURLMANITOBA RULE SUPPLEMENT AND GENERAL COMPETITOR GULDE AND EVENT SPECIFIC GUIDES FOR ALL RULES AND INFORMATION